

## MISCELLANY.

The Hon. Thomas H. Benton has been re-elected by the Legislature, a Senator in Congress, from the state of Missouri, for six years, from the 3d of March next; when his present term of service will expire.

Albin K. Paris, has been elected to the Senate of the United States, by the legislature of Maine. He will fill the seat now occupied by Mr. Holmes.

From the "London Mechanics' Magazine."

### GROUND SWELL IN THE POLAR REGIONS.

The ice in the Polar regions accommodates itself to the surface by bending, but when several yards in thickness, it refuses to yield beyond a certain extent, and is broken in pieces with dreadful explosions — The best account that we know of the appearances presented on such occasions is given by a party of Moravian missionaries, who were engaged in a coasting expedition on the ice along the northern shore of Labrador, with sledges drawn by dogs. They narrowly escaped destruction from one of those occurrences, and were near enough to witness all its grandeur. We extract it from the recent interesting compilation of the Rev. Dr. Brown, on the history of the Propagation of Christianity. The missionaries met a sledge with Esquimaux turning in from the sea, who, though some hints that it might be well for them to return; after some time, their own Esquimaux hinted that there was a ground swell under the ice; it was then scarcely perceptible, except on lying down and applying the ear close to the ice, when a hollow, disagreeable, grating noise was heard ascending from the abyss. As the motion of the sea under the ice had grown more perceptible, they became alarmed, and began to think it prudent to keep close to the shore; the ice also had fissures in many places, some of which formed chasms of one or two feet, but as these are not uncommon even in its best state, and the dogs easily leap over them, they are frightful only to strangers; as the wind rose to a storm, the swell had now increased so much that its effects on the ice were extraordinary and really alarming. The sledges, instead of gliding smoothly along on an even surface, sometimes ran with violence after the dogs, and sometimes seemed with difficulty to ascend a rising hill; noises, too, were now distinctly heard in many directions like the report of cannon, from the bursting of the ice at a distance; — alarmed at these frightful phenomena; — our travellers drove with all haste towards the shore, and as they approached it the prospect before them was tremendous; the ice having burst loose from the rocks, was tossed to and fro, and broken in a thousand pieces against the precipices, with a dreadful noise; which, added to the raging of the sea, the roaring of the wind, and the driving of the snow, so completely overpowered them as almost to deprive them of the one or both of their eyes and ears. To make the land now was the only source that remained; but it was with the utmost difficulty that the frightened dogs could be driven forward, and as the whole body of the ice frequently sank below the summits of the rocks and then rose above them, the only time for landing was at the moment it gained the level of the coast, a circumstance which rendered the attempt extremely nice and hazardous; but sledges, however, succeeded in gaining the shore, & were drawn up on the beach, though not without great difficulty; scarcely had they reached it when the parts of the ice from which they had just escaped burst asunder, and the water rushing from beneath instantly precipitated it into the ocean; in a moment, as if by a signal, the whole mass of ice for several miles along the coast, and extending as far as the eye could reach, began to break and to be overwhelmed with waves; the spectacle was awfully grand; the immense fields of ice rising out of the ocean, clashing against one another, and then plunging into the deep with a violence which no language can describe, and a noise like the discharge of ten thousand canons, was a sight which must have struck the most unreflecting mind with solemn awe. The brethren were overwhelmed with amazement at their miraculous escape, and even the pagan Esquimaux expressed gratitude to God for their deliverance.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY OF MEXICO.

The plain of Mexico is about 80 leagues in circumference, and is enclosed on all sides by mountains, clad with cedar, rare shrubs and medicinal plants. These mountains also contain in their bosoms mines of the precious metals, and gems. They are covered with romantic villages and farms, which are watered by limpid streams. The centre of this deliquescent plain is occupied by lakes, one of which, that formerly extended to the city, is now drawn off to such a degree, that it does not reach within a league of it.

Mexico was founded in 1317, and is continually increasing and becoming more beautiful every year. The inhabitants, whose number has been growing since the establishment of independence, dwell in very high houses; and the finest part of the city is only of small extent. The streets are straight and well paved. In spite of the marshy nature of the soil, art has laid strong foundations for the buildings. The police is good, and the streets are kept very clean, so that the city is a favourite place of residence; it is the largest, the finest, and the most sumptuous of all the cities which the Spanish monarchy has lost in America.

The Cathedral is a master piece. It was ninety four years in building, and contains two statues of the Virgin—one of silver, weighing 50 pounds, and one of gold, which weighs 6000 cast-illions, ornamented with precious stones. There are a hundred other churches, all very beautiful and richly decorated; a great number of nunneries, one of which has been the residence of a celebrated Mexican portress, Juana de la Cruz.

The city also contains a multitude of other public edifices, amongst which is remarkable that of the Mountain of Piety, endowed with a fund of \$15,000 dollars, presented by Count Regla; and the Tribunal of the King and the descendants of Cortes. The number of hospitals is thirteen; and there are asylums for married women, the poor mendicants and foundlings.

The edifice which belonged to the inquisition, has a most sumptuous appearance. It contained three inquisitors, two judges and a fiscal; four robed councillors, two ecclesiastical, an alguacil, four secretaries and a treasurer. The regular manufacture employs 5000 persons.

The Government Palace contains, among other establishments, the Mint, where in 1742, four millions one hundred and twelve thousand dollars were coined, besides five thousand nine hundred and twelve marks in gold. The city is abundantly supplied with grain, as well as fruit, and other productions of the garden, from the country in its environs, which is fertile, with the exception of the part which lies west of the great lake, where the salt water and saline vapours injure the vegetation.

Mexico is not enclosed by walls, but is surrounded by a broad ditch, which is sufficient to secure the payment of the dues, and to prevent frauds, in articles passing the gates, which are numerous, the principal ones being those of Guadalupe, St. Antonio, St. Lazarus, Chapultepec and the Angels of Transposition. In the middle of the great square is a fountain ornamented with a bronze equestrian statue.

N. Y. Daily Ad.

### A HAPPY ILLUSTRATION.

Conceive a man to be standing on the margin of this green world; and that, when he looked towards it, he saw abundance smiling upon every field, and all the blessings which earth can afford, scattered in profusion throughout every family, and the light of sun sweetly resting upon all the pleasant habitations, and the joys of human companionship brightening many a happy circle of society—conceive this to be the general character of the scene upon one side of his contemplation; and that, on the other beyond the verge of the goodly plain on which he was situated, he could discern nothing but a dark and fathomless unknown. Think you that he would bid a voluntary adieu to all the brightness, and all the beauty that were before him upon earth; and commit himself to the frigid solitude away from it; would he leave its peopled dwelling places, and become a solitary wanderer through the fields of nothingness? If space offered him nothing but a wilderness, would he for it abandon the bounded scenes of life and of cheerfulness, that lay so

R. Welch of Ben.

B. A. C.

Anapolis, 3d January, 1827.

State of Maryland,

Charles County, to wit

I hereby certify, that R. W.

M'Pherson of said county, brought

before me the subscriber, a Justice of

the peace for said county, a BLACK

WELDING, about six

years old, fourteen

hands, two inches high,

switch tail, paces, trots

and canters. Given under my hand this 14th

of October 1826.

John F. Dunnington

The owner of the above described

horse, is requested to come forward,

prove property, pay charges, and

take him away.

R. W. M'Pherson.

January 4.

### Sheriffalty.

#### John Knighton,

Respectfully informs his fellow citizens of Anne Arundel county, and the City of Annapolis, that he is a Candidate for the office of Sheriff, at the election to be held in 1827; and solicits their suffrages.

April 27.

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